



IHSA^{Aspires} FRIDAY!

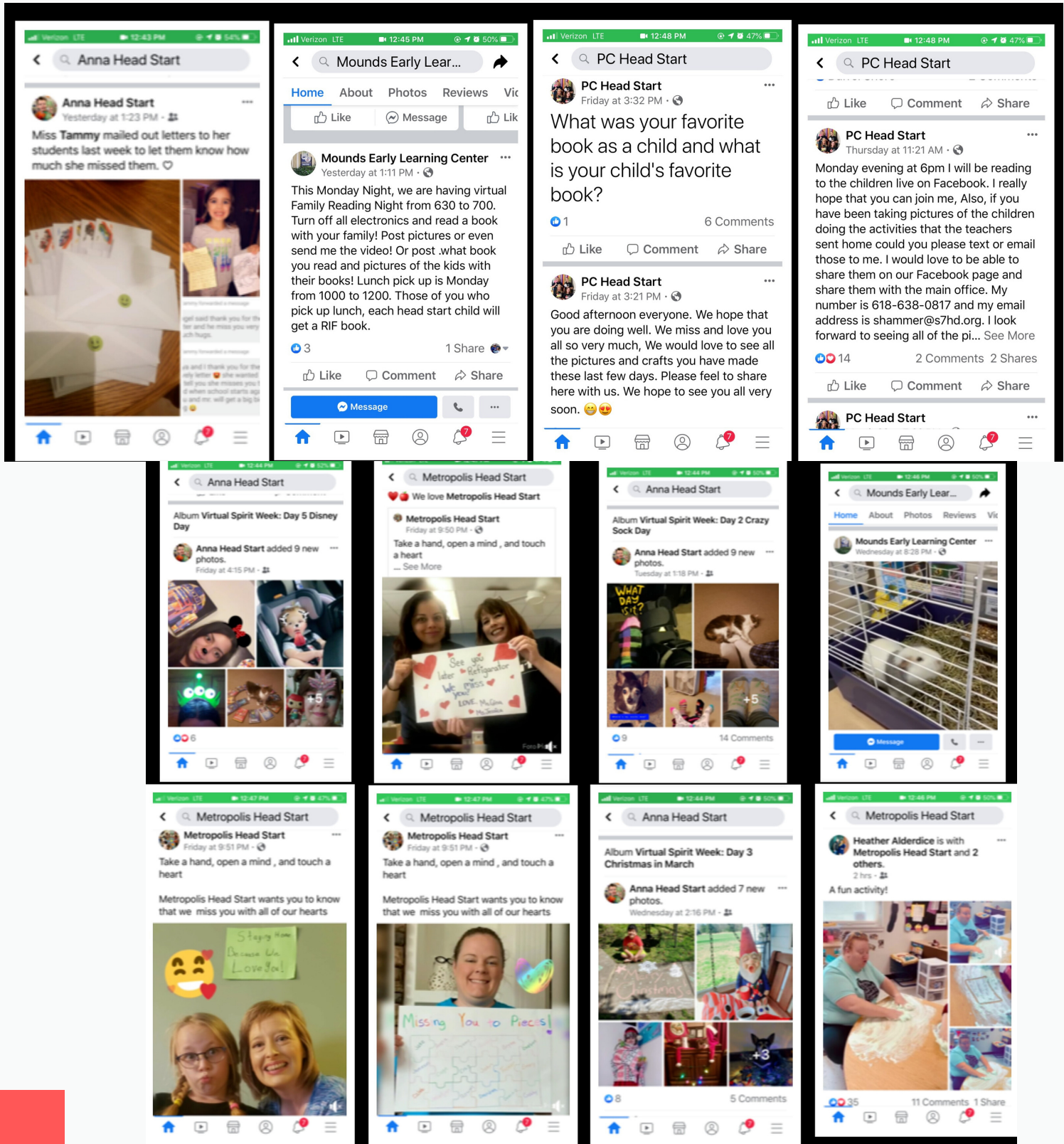
COVID-19 Creative Corner

Authenticity is the daily practice of letting go of who we think we're supposed to be and embracing who we are.-Brené Brown

INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: Catholic Charities of Joliet

One of the most well received resource that I sent to staff this week was information on the Remind 101 app. Remind 101 is a communication platform that helps educators reach students and parents where they are. Messages are sent in real time to an entire class, a small group, or just a single person. You can also schedule announcements ahead of time and attach photos and other files including videos. With Remind, you can send text messages straight to any phone, including flip phones. To reach every family, translate your messages into more than 90 languages before you send. Use delivery receipts to see who's reading your messages. I sent this so that teachers could communicate with families, share the many resources they have to continue support children's development and learning such as TSG Learning Games and/or videos, and to allow families to send in videos and/or other evidence to show how successful their child was in completing the activity. We have encouraged teachers to use the information sent in from parents as documentation to show children's progress towards learning goals! We have had several teachers sign up and agree that this is an awesome and easy to use resource. By the way, Remind 101 is FREE!!! I Hope this is helpful to other programs that may not be using another resource of ongoing communication with families during program closures!

INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: Southern 7 Heath Department



INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: From Champaign County Head Start

I provided a list of services we are providing to families and employees below. The Early Childhood Division has a dedicated facebook page. This Facebook Group page is allowing our team to connect with families, the community, and employees and provide support. Our team is posting educational and community resources, storytellers, video activities and lessons, and messages from staff. As of today's date, March 30, we have 146 members including employees, community partners, and parents. The non-bargaining unit staff are contacting families to survey their needs and providing immediate support and information. Starting April 6, classroom teams, home visitors, and family advocates will begin contacting families via phone, text messaging, and email based on families' preferences for communicating. Weekly, these classroom teams will contact families and hopefully speak with children and provide educational support to parents. All five Family Child Care Home Provider Partners have remained open but only serving essential workers from our enrolled families. Each provider is serving no more than six children. The attendance has been very low. Management has applied for the special CACFP application to distribute food to families weekly. We hope to begin this by April 7. Our team will also begin distributing care packages that include diapers, baby wipes, formula, and baby. We hope to begin this by April 7. **For more awesome ideas, click on the LOGO below to go straight to their FACEBOOK PAGE!**



INSPIRING IDEAS THIS WEEK FROM: **Childcare Network of Evanston**

I want to brag a bit about our staff at CNE! In addition to the activities our home visiting team and family support specialists are sending at the beginning of each week, our staff is collecting art supplies, sterilizing them and assembling art activity kits for delivery to families. I also included a picture of the sterile boxes we are delivering them in! We are also delivering grocery gift cards funded by our Board (and their contacts). These are tough, tough times but I'm grateful to be part of a team that pulls together. We will all be better for it.

